



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS VIOLATION AFTER THREATENING HOSPITAL

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of ammunition.

Richard S. Heideman, 46, of Columbia, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon.

By pleading guilty, **Heideman** admitted that he was in possession of eight boxes containing 50 rounds each of .22 Long Rifle rimfire ammunition. Under federal law, Graves said, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Heideman** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction as a persistent offender of driving while intoxicated in Boone County, Mo.

Heideman was arrested on Nov. 21, 2002, after making numerous threatening telephone calls to employees of the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital in Columbia. When law enforcement officers searched his car during the arrest, Graves said, they found the ammunition.

Under federal statutes, **Heideman** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Veterans Administration Police Department, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
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